MS docket 147252.1 SLWK docket 777.385us1

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING
VECTOR EDITING OF BITMAP IMAGES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method of supporting all raster-based image manipulations described in vector-based terms. The present invention has the benefits of providing clean transformation that vector-based manipulations yields, and providing a broad selection of all image transformation operations that raster-based manipulations yields. In one aspect of the

10   invention a vector-defined shape is drawn on top of a raster-based image by replacing the contents of the vector image with the bits from the raster image. In another aspect of the present invention, a copy of the portion of the raster image that overlaps with the vector-defined portion is made, the transformation operation is performed on the copy, and then the portion of the raster image is replaced with the transformed copy. In yet another aspect of the

15   present invention, a filter, such as a transformation operation, is attached to a textual vector instruction, the bits defined by the textual vector instruction are replaced with the corresponding bits in a raster image, and the transformation is applied. In still another aspect of the present invention, a browser receives a HTML page, in which the HTML page identifies a custom plug-in extension method to the browser, a background image, a vector

20   shape, and a raster manipulation, the browser communicates the information in the HTML page to the custom plug-in extension component, and the component uses an input buffer, and an output buffer coupled to the browser to perform the raster manipulation on the vector shape and background image.

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